
The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Riley Boudreaux.

DIGEST

Present constitution provides that 1/5 of the severance tax on all natural resources other than sulphur, lignite, or timber shall be remitted to the governing authority of the parish in which severance or production occurs. The initial maximum amount remitted to the parish in which severance or production occurs cannot exceed \$850,000.

Proposed constitutional amendment increases such maximum from \$850,000 to \$1,850,000 for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 and from \$1,850,000 to \$2,850,000 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and thereafter.

Present constitution provides that the maximums are to be increased each July 1st beginning in 2008 by an amount equal to the average annual increase in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, as published by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, for the previous calendar year, as calculated and adopted by the Revenue Estimating Conference.

Proposed constitutional amendment retains the CPI increase provision, but starts it on July 1, 2010.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that at least 50% of the funds received by a parish in excess of that received for FY2009-2010 (before the implementation of the new maximums in the proposed constitutional amendment) must be used in the same manner and for the same purposes as money from the Parish Transportation Fund.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that, after the allocations of severance tax to the parishes and to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund have been satisfied, an amount equal to 50% of the revenues received from severance taxes collected on state lands, not to exceed \$10 million, within the Atchafalaya Basin is to be deposited into the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund. The money in the fund must be appropriated to the Dept. of Natural Resources to be used exclusively to fund projects contained in the state or federal Basin master plans or an annual Basin plan developed by an Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board and such other advisory or approval boards which the legislature must create or provide for by law within the Atchafalaya Basin Program, or to provide match for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Louisiana Project, all as the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources shall direct.

Proposed constitutional amendment provides that 85% of the monies must be used for water management, water quality, or access projects within the Atchafalaya Basin, and the remaining 15% may be used to complete ongoing projects and for projects that are in accordance with the mission statement of the state master plan. A maximum of 5% of the money may be allocated for operational costs of the program or the department.

Specifies submission of the amendment to the voters at the statewide election to be held on Nov. 2, 2010.

(Amends Const. Art. VII, Section 4(D)(3); adds Const. Art. VII, Section 4(D)(4))